

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 0125

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, SP, PFOR
SUBJECT: US-SPANISH COUNCIL

1. IN INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS SUGGESTED THE UTILITY OF HOLDING IN THE NEAR FUTURE A MEETING OF THE US-SPANISH COUNCIL AT THE LEVEL OF PERMREPS (AMBASSADOR AND UNDER-SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS) HERE IN MADRID. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY VIEWS THIS AS A USEFUL WAY TO BREATHE FURTHER LIFE INTO THE STRUCTURE CREATED BY THE TREATY AND TO MAINTAIN A DESIRED LEVEL OF COORDINATION OF EFFORT ON THE SPANISH IN THE INTERVAL BETWEEN SEMIANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL.

2. THE FOLLOWING AGENDA HAS BEEN AGREED ON TENTATIVELY:
(A) REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TREATY, PARTICULARLY MILITARY ASSISTANCE ASPECTS;
(B) REVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SEVERAL JOINT COMMITTEES;
(C) REVIEW OF PROGRESS TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMBINED MILITARY COORDINATION AND PLANNING STAFF (THE TERMS OF REFERENCE, HOUSING ARRANGEMENTS, PROJECTED INITIAL STAFFING, ETC.).
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WE HAVE SUGGESTED TO THE MINISTRY THAT THIS WOULD BE AN APPROPRIATE OCCASION FOR FORMAL APPROVAL OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND HAVE URGED THAT THE FINAL SPANISH DRAFT BE GIVEN US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

(D) INITIAL DISCUSSION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISION OF THE TREATY (ART 5, SUPPL.AGREEMENT 1) WHICH CALLS FOR THE COUNCIL TO ESTABLISH BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT A COMMISSION TO

PROPOSE TO IT SPECIFIC MEASURES TO PROMOTE THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF MEANINGFUL COORDINATION WITH NATO.

3. WITH RESPECT TO THE FINAL ITEM ON THIS PROPOSED AGENDA, WE
EXPECT THAT THE SPANISH MAY CONTINUE TO BE HAVING INTERNAL
DIFFICULTIES IN DECIDING HOW TO PROCEED. DURING THE FALL, THE
HIGH GENERAL STAFF HAD INDICATED INFORMALLY TO US ITS PERFER-
ENCE TO DELAY IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROVISION OF THE TREATY.
ALTHOUGH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY NOW SEEMS QUITE INTERESTED IN
SETTING UP THE AD HOC COMMITTEE, WE CONTINUE TO EXPECT LESS
ENTHUSIASM FROM THE MILITARY FOR PRESSING AHEAD IN THE IMMEDIATE
FUTURE. IF PAST EXPERIENCE IS A GUIDE, WE MIGHT ALSO EXPECT
THAT ALL THREE SPANISH SERVICES, WOULD WISH TO HAVE THEIR
OWN REPRESENTATIVES ON ANY SUCH COMMISSION. SINCE WE DO NOT
KNOW YET PRECISELY HOW THE SPANISH WILL APPROACH THIS MATTER
AND SINCE IT IS NOT IN OUR INTEREST TO APPEAR TO BE PRESSING
THEM UNDULY AT THIS TIME ON THE NATO MEMBERSHIP QUESTION, WE
WOULD INTEND, SUBJECT TO THE DEPT'S VIEWS, TO ATTEMPT TO USE
THIS FIRST FORMAL DISCUSSION ON THIS POINT SIMPLY TO INDICATE
A SYMPATHETIC US VIEW TO GOING AS FAR AS POSSIBLE TO MEET SPANISH
DESIRES WITH RESPECT TO IMPLEMENTATION. WE WOULD INDICATE
A WILLINGNESS TO ATTEMPT TO MATCH THE LEVEL OF THE REPRESENTATION
THE SPANISH PROPOSE TO THE EXTENT THIS CAN BE DONE BY DRAWING
ON PERSONNEL ALREADY ASSIGNED TO MADRID.

4. ONCE A DATE FOR THIS MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HAS BEEN
ESTABLISHED, WE WILL ALSO BE REQUESTING FROM THE US CHAIRMEN
OF THE SEVERAL JOINT COMMITTEES SUGGESTIONS WITH RESPECT TO
THE HANDLING OF AGENDA ITEM B. STABLER
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